



Short Safety Subject

NCO LEADERSHIP

You are the second most important person in the Army. Your soldiers are the first. Have you read the NCO creed lately? Do you understand it? It talks about professionalism, pride, competence, mission, welfare of soldiers, responsibility, respect, confidence, taking care of officers, loyalty, and personal courage. Today's NCOs do all of that and MORE—especially our senior NCOs. They have that tremendous common sense wisdom that comes from lots of experience. They do so much — they take care of our soldiers and families, they develop young soldiers to be NCOs, they train junior NCOs and make them tomorrow's ISGs and CSMs, and they train, coach, and teach our junior officers.

Noncommissioned officers are the backbone of the Army. The NCO's responsibilities to soldiers are endless. Every minute of the day is crammed with something to do, check, inspect, train, plan, or enforce. But the biggest responsibility NCOs have is accomplishing the mission while keeping soldiers safe.

Safety and mission accomplishment are two integral parts of every soldier's life. Mission accomplishment requires that soldiers be properly trained, equipped with the right tools (which have been properly maintained), and informed, so they know what they are expected to do. Safety requires the same things. NCOs who maintain discipline and enforce standards save lives. Good, sound planning includes enforcing the standards — that means leading soldiers. NCOs — as a first-line supervisor, squad leader, platoon sergeant, section sergeant, or the NCOIC - must supervise soldiers and enforce the standard every time. If you don't, you have lowered the standard. Never forget your two most important duties: **Mission First, Safety Always!**

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